**Camp Session III: Data Advocacy**

**Leader:** Denise Linn Riedl

**Notes:** Olivia Arena

**Attendees:**

Norma Garza, CI: NOW

Mark Abraham, DataHaven

Jack Dougherty, Hartford

Amy Confair, Philly

Chris Kingsley

Issued for Evidence-Based Policy, trying to create a stronger data culture. The opportunity for NNIP is focused on the federal role and trying to get more information from communities up to the federal level for federal role in supporting states and communities. Op-Ed, but also here is the most local-level data.

DLR: Haven’t thought strategically as our role in data advocacy, had a lot of freedom. Haven’t had to think about our role in advocacy. Trying to think about how we can broker data advocacy as a collective action for more open data or across organizations. Criminal justice data, coordinate asks. We’ve noticed that between institutions people have different levels of success asking for the same data.

* One example is court data in Illinois is write a letter to Judge Evans to get court data. Institutions or university institutions or people with better relationships have more success. Media institutions have less success. I think there’s a gotcha fear. They trust that researchers will look at trends vs one single individual.
* We don’t know if we want to coordinate efforts because we may compromise our ability to get data.

JD: I don’t want them to give just me the data. Do they give it thinking that it’s just for you.

DLR: Aren’t open FOYA policies. If they get a FOYA request they publish the data publicly. Journalists don’t like that because it blows the story.

* We have committed to a pathway that makes the data open.
* How do you have partners—data table to data table with the same partners and slightly different indicators. Is there a way to document this? StriveTogether, the need to have a backbone organization and be data-focused. StriveTogether 🡪 brand of collective impact in <https://www.strivetogether.org/>

MA: Had success

DLR: We don’t in a formal way work with the reporting or research that advocacy groups are doing in neighborhoods. Chicago version of Code for America hacknight is a place for nonprofits to go and ask questions about the city’s data.

CK: NNIP can provide context but also buy-in from higher level elected officials. Advocating for better data.

MA: Even in a collective impact initiative like Promise Zone, there are many different data tables. That’s a role for a partner to aggregate data for a platform. Is it coordinated top down or role for NNIP partner?

NG: There is an initiative with overlap, but they don’t want to meet yet. It’s our job to point out those commonalities. ARDA is more about making data open and available to anyone to the public.

MA: Bringing as many funders to the table is important for turning that into something sustainability. That data pull is useful, but there should be something ongoing.

OA: Collective group for funding data? Leveraging funding?

MA: We could do much more of that and pool more data and create neighborhood level projects of it. Beyond the pilot phase.

DLR: Where have you had the most work starting in that space? We’ve had success going through the tech, journalism avenue.

MA: Each data table has its own thing and is specific to each data product.

CK: Branding, how to make a case. You have to consistently win that support overtime. Showing that you are the pipes and the intel on the ground.

DLR: All rebranding should be informed by vacations (reference to Lynette Cook’s Ignite on Thoughtwell).

OA: We need to be thoughtful about the Census.

DLR: Last meeting, Census work and had an appointment the budget got slashed and the head of the Census stepped down. Advocacy is going to be part of that. Glazed eyes coworkers and colleagues, people know it’s important but it takes time and effort. The pay-off is clear but distributed.

CK: Data funders group on Census. Evidence-based policy commission, comes under Commerce and Census Department. Really good moment to make sure the business community, elected leaders, moment to help

OA: Advocacy, researchers, nonprofits, boards shy away from it?

DLR: Pretty comfortable. We have a pretty—our board is not a hands-on board. Because we do so much engagement, even though we take a stance. We need to remain credible and neutral across those parties. One thing that we’ve started to do—data advocacy. We have thought about shaping data collection policies. We were brought on to look at data policy – there weren’t best practices out there. We just hoped we were doing the best for people in the room.

MA: Community partners, write a grant here’s the data. Guidelines for partners, what they should share with students and be mindful of. Be thoughtful about local rules.

DLR: Sometimes you have to advocate for privacy.

CK: Plug for guide on privacy things—

DLR: Passing those things and cross the data literacy wall. You have to educate people on technology what could happen, how data could be compromised, empowering people to give honest feedback. Educate people about things while asking for feedback.

MA: Partnering with university can do this.

DLR: Academics aren’t always the best at communicating those findings to the community.

CK: Data scientist (Metrolab), people don’t want public systems conversations are talking past each other—Metrolab is not great at it. NNIP as a data communicator.

DLR: University has tension with the city and community. People don’t automatically trust UChicago more than the City. Depends on the project.

* Smart Chicago Collaborative: We do a broad engagement, public meeting style format, partner with a community organization. We don’t like to drop in to a neighborhood. Partner with an anchor institution to host conversations and own that issue in the neighborhood. Participatory element as well. We are printing giant maps of a neighborhood. City electricians work on this, they subsidize, but run by UChicago, but there wasn’t a requirement. They did it after censors.

MA: Massive censor project, engage the community beforehand. When new data comes out, trying to get ahead of it before the neighborhood. Then there’s another type of advocacy and community work. Train to use the data and know about it

DLR: Policies, partnerships, Census,

JD: Policy advocacy by data advocacy. What’s the action part? Are you a policy group? Do you push at city hall? We have to figure that out.

CK: AASP, have moved to government over university.

MA: Board likes data for action, how do we support others to take action. We got funding or we brought people to the table. Almost like a funding intermediary. Performance measures, organizations involved, funding, citations, legislation.

MA: Public school, sensitive.

JD: Board of trustees vs. board of advisors.

***Public Housing as a partner(data partner, convener, housing as a platform?)***